

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Niki Biggs	Susan Austin	Andrea Wiley
Debbie Braam	Amy Axel	
Councilman Guthrie	Angela Barnett	
Kathy Halliday	Bob Coen	
Gil Kennedy		
Laurie Kwiedorowicz		
Marc Weinstein		

Helene Dubay, who has been selected as the Commission's recommendation to fill the vacancy in the category of "County Citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business", and Andre Sconion, who has been selected as the Commission's recommendation for the Student Representative to the Commission, were also in attendance.

- I. Vice Chairperson, Laurie Kwiedorowicz, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the April 23, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee:
 1. Membership:

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



a. Kathy Halliday and Marc Weinstein reported on Membership activities:

- A press release advertising current Commission vacancies in the category of “County Citizen with a Disability” has been issued today.
- The committee has developed “Procedures for Filling Commission vacancies”; a letter to Associate Members confirming their appointments and date of appointment; and a short description of the Commission and its committees.
- The Code of Ethics from the Harford County Code was distributed for inclusion in Commission Member/Associate Member Membership materials.

b. Commission Officers: Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz re-introduced the slate of officers, Debbie Braam as Chairperson and Gil Kennedy as Vice Chairperson. She announced that she had received no other nominations or self-nominations during the past month. The members unanimously approved the slate of officers, which will be forwarded to the County Executive for review and approval.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Renters and Homeowners Program: Sharon Grzanka circulated a photograph of the first ramp constructed at a home in Abingdon.
2. Housing Coalition: Gil Kennedy reported that the Coalition has held two meetings and is working with a consultant, David Kramer, to develop a mission statement, gather data about current affordable housing in the County, and to prepare a presentation for a proposed Fall 2007 Department of Community Services-sponsored Housing Conference.
3. Liriodendron: Bob Coen and Sharon Grzanka met with Arden McClune, Parks and Recreation, and Dorothy Francis, Liriodendron, on April 25, 2007, to discuss providing accessibility during upcoming construction (August/September 2007) to improve accessibility at the Liriodendron.
4. Design for Life – Harford: This voluntary program, based on Design for Life – Montgomery, will provide guidelines for accessibility in single family attached and detached

homes in new construction and renovation. Work has begun on the program brochure, including photos of existing accessible home features.

C. Education Committee: Debbie Braam reported that:

- The Expo for Individuals with Disabilities will be held on March 8, 2008 and that the planning committee met on May 17, 2007.
- In order to appeal to a broader audience, including students with disabilities who are working toward a diploma, the committee has renamed the event, "Expo for Transitioning Youth" and plans to modify the Expo logo, which had included the universal symbol of accessibility as the "O" in Expo.
- The committee held a brainstorming session to develop possible workshop topics: services for students with disabilities at Harford Community College; a panel of Harford County Public Schools alumni to discuss their accomplishments as young adults; Best Buddies; inclusive recreation, etc. A suggestion was made to consider driving requirements for applicants with disabilities.
- Next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

D. Government and Community Relations Committee

1. Commission web page: Bob Coen has received input from the web page survey, his report will follow at the June 25, 2007 Commission meeting.
2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz distributed and discussed the final outcome of legislation proposed during the 2007 Maryland General Assembly session.
3. Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities. At the Alliance's May 7, 2007 meeting, it was announced that the Department of Disabilities is seeking applicants for membership on the Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force. For more information, contact Stefani O'Dea, 410-402-8472.
5. Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: Three Harford County students will be delegates to the forum at Bowie State University: Ashley Bolgiano, Lauren Kennedy, and Andre Sconion. The students and their parents will be

invited to a “Send Off” at the July 23, 2007 Commission meeting. The County Executive will also attend.

6. Transportation Steering Committee: No report.
7. Harford County Town Hall Meeting: The Commission co-sponsors this event along with the Mental Health Association, the Core Service Agency, Service Coordination, NAMI-Harford County, the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, Service Coordination, Office on Aging, etc. The 10th annual event will be held on Monday, December 3, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the McFaul Center. The event will present cross-disability issues again this year. The next planning meeting will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School in Bel Air.

- E. Employment Committee: Co-chair Niki Biggs reported that the Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club. She distributed application forms for the six awards presented at the Awards Luncheon and announced the deadline for applications, Wednesday, September 12, 2007. The next meeting of the Employment Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School”.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report:

- Attended the World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo on May 18, 2007; will compare their exhibitor list with the Harford County Expo exhibitor list;
- From the Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: the Amputee Coalition of America is holding a meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. For more information and to register to attend the meeting, call 202-742-1885 or email APPLL@amputee-coalition.org

- V. Old Business: See committee reports.

VI. New Business: There was none.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements:

- Councilman Guthrie reported that there will be a meeting of the Transportation Management Association on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) Center, in Aberdeen.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.